

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LAGOS 08080 301500Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01
ICA-11 /090 W
-----110201 301504Z /53

P R 301345Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9222
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL KADUNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 8080

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, RH, NI
SUBJECT: DAILY TIMES "CONDEMNS" UMTALI MASSACRE

REF: STATE 164007

1. THE LEADING GOVERNMENT OWNED NEWSPAPER,
THE DAILY TIMES, ON JUNE 30, IN AN EDITORIAL
AMBIGUOUSLY CONDEMNS THE UMTALI MASSACRE IN
RHODESIA BUT NOTES THAT "UNLESS SOMETHING IS
DONE SOON" TO SETTLE THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM,
"WE MAY CLECEBRATE SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS OF TOTAL
WARFARE."

2. NOTING THAT "THE SMITH REGIME" AND MUGABE
ARE BLAMING EACH OTHER FOR THE KILLINGS, THE
DT COMMENTS:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LAGOS 08080 301500Z

"WE MAY NEVER FIND OUT WHO DID THE KILLINGS,
OR WHY. BUT WE CAN AND DO CONDEMN ALL SUCH
ACTS OF BARBARIC STUPIDITY. FOR ALL PRACTICAL
PURPOSES, ZIMBABWE IS A THEATRE OF WAR, AND
IN WAR THE COMMUNITY OF MAN HAS COME TO ACCEPT
THAT IT MUST LIVE WITH A CERTAIN MEASURE OF
BRUTALITY. BUT THE KILLING OF 12 UNARMED

PERSONS, WHITE OR BLACK, IN THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THE 12 BRITONS WERE KILLED, MUST BE JUDGED INEXCUSABLE AND ABHORRENT IN THE EXTREME."

3. NEVERTHELESS, ACCORDING TO THE DT, THERE IS: "SOMETHING DECIDEDLY SORDID IN THE MANNER WHICH ALL SECTIONS OF OPINION IN BRITAIN HAVE REACTED TO THE INCIDENT. THEIR SANCTIMONIOUS RAGE APART, VIRTUALLY ALL THE NATIONAL NEWS-PAPERS IN BRITAIN HAVE CONCLUDED FROM IT THAT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS ON ZIMBABWE SHOULD BE THROWN OUT, AND THAT IAN SMITH'S INTERNAL SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ITSELF, NEVER NOTORIOUS FOR ITS ENTHUSIASM FOR THE PROPOSALS, MUST NO DOUBT NOW BE WONDERING WHETHER THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO EXTRICATE ITSELF FROM A HALF-HEARTED COMMITMENT WHICH BOTH BLOOD AND SENTIMENT ALWAYS ARGUED AGAINST."

4. THE DT CONCLUDES BY NOTING THE RECENT SOUTH AFRICAN RAID AT CASSINGA AND THE RHODESIAN INCURSIONS INTO MOZAMBIQUE: "CASSINGA AND KOLWEZI AND UMTALI NO DOUBT REMIND US THAT EUROPEAN BLOOD IS ALWAYS NAD IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LAGOS 08080 301500Z

ALL CIRCUMSTANCES MORE PRECIOUS THAN BLACK BLOOD. PERHAPS THE DEATH OF EIGHT WHITE MISSIONARIES IS NOT FULLY COMPENSATED FOR BY THE MASSACRE OF A THOUSAND BLACK REFUGEES. BUT WE ARE NOT OBLIGED TO CONCEDE THE SANCTITY OF SUCH CAPRICIOUS AND EVIL CALCULATIONS OF HUMAN WORTH. AND THAT IS WHY WE MUST AGAIN INVITE BRITAIN TO PONDER THE SOLEMN TRUTH THAT UNNATURAL CIRCUMSTANCES CAN INDEED DRIVE A PEOPLE TO UNNATURAL ACTS OF HORROR AND BRUTALITY. TODAY WE CONDEMN THE MURDERS IN UMTALI. TOMORROW, UNLESS SOMETHING IS DONE SOON, WE MAY CELEBRATE SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS OF TOTAL WARFARE."

5. COMMENT: AS WE HAVE NOTED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, DT EDITORIALS COME OUT OF A STABLE OF WRITERS AND DO NOT FOLLOW A CONSISTENT LINE. NEVERTHELESS, THEY GENERALLY REFLECT THINKING WITHIN THE FMG, IF NOT NECESSARILY GOVERNMENT POLICY. WYMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MASSACRES, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS08080
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780270-1103
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978064/aaaaacxb.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bfa24685-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 164007
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2281091
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DAILY TIMES \"CONDEMNNS\" UMTALI MASSACRE
TAGS: PDEV, SOPN, RH, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bfa24685-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014